

RFPB Z - Mail



*Office of the Secretary of Defense
Reserve Forces Policy Board,
The Honorable Albert C. Zapanta, Chairman*

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BOARD STUDIES POST CONFLICT STABILIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION

The RFPB'S focus on support to transformation is taking new form as the staff is engaged in looking at creative ways in which the Reserve components might both be organized and utilized for post conflict operations. Recent operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have highlighted the difficulties associated with stability and reconstruction efforts. We are exploring new ways to make available through the RC, the expertise and personnel required to accomplish this aspect of the mission.

One of the draft proposals we are developing for consideration is that of a universal command. Commanded by RC two-star general, the command would contain many of the specialties needed to effectively coordinate long-term post-conflict missions, including civil affairs specialties, military police, medical and others. We expect to brief the full Board on this proposal in January. It will also be the focus of a 1/2 day conference being held in conjunction with the Civil Affairs Association and ROA conference in mid-January.

SECDEF REQUESTS RFPB INVOLVEMENT IN FORCE REBALANCING EFFORT

In October the SECDEF tasked the JCS to review how the RFPB can be involved in force rebalancing. This timely request serves to revitalize the RFPB mission at the strategic and policy level and will serve as an impetus to realign Board's current support structure. We recently met with the Vice Chief, VADM Keating to discuss the Board's support to the JCS and our charter.

*Seasons Greetings from the
RFPB!*

The RFPB has a clear charter to provide independent advice to the SECDEF, report directly to Congress, and conduct liaison with members of the RC and with the American public as the third partner in the citizen-patriot-RC member contract. Given this strategic focus, the RFPB should:

- √ Provide SECDEF transformational advice on RC matters. Coordinate with JCS, Unified Commanders, OSD Transformation Office, and Military Departments.
- √ Direct the RFPB's annual business cycle to address issues related to force rebalancing.
- √ Ensure force rebalancing issues are addressed in the Board's annual report and in the 2004 Symposium.

FIRST SENIOR LEADERSHIP FORUM A HIT IN CHICAGO

The RFPB's public-private cooperation effort came to life on 29 October with the first in a series of strategic war games involving CEOs of major companies who have a vested interest in homeland defense. This iteration focused on agricultural and food chain security and included CEOs from Kraft Foods, American Express, McDonalds, Union Pacific and many others. We were especially pleased to have representation from HLS and OASD/HLD there. As a result of "Silent Farmland," the Chairman of Oil-dri Corp. will take the lead in determining future follow-on events for the region.

Our friends AT Kearney and Buckner & Co are now even more committed to helping us with future events. The next strategic war-game will take place in March.